

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T AMMAN 3512

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US, UK, SA, UR

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE - RESTRUCTURED OPTION

REFS: (A) STATE 166458, (B) AMMAN 3510 (NOTAL), (C) STATE 144343
(NOTAL), (D) AMMAN 3513

1. THIS TELEGRAM SUMMARIZES MY MEETING WITH KING JULY 4.
SEPTTEL, REF (D) PROVIDES DETAILS.
2. IN SPITE OF RECOMMENDATION REFTTEL (B) THAT WE SIT TIGHT,
DECIDED HERE TO PRESENT INFORMATION REFTTEL (A) ON BASIS
THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE KING KNOW WHAT WE INTENDED AND
TRY TO MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR IT AS HE MOVED OFF TO RIYADH
THAN TO HAVE HIM IN IGNORANCE OF OUR IDEAS. I THEREFORE CARRIED
THROUGH WITH INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR RIYADH
WITH ONE EXCEPTION - I DID NOT PRESENT FIGURES ON RESTRUCTURED
PACKAGE. THIS WAS TO ENABLE US TO MAKE THAT PRESENTATION
ON OUR OWN IF KING AND WE DECIDED THAT SHOULD BE DONE,
WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TO ENCOURAGE KING TO MAKE A MAXIMUM
EFFORT AT THE ILLUSIVE \$500M WHICH SHAH SAYS SAUDIS HAVE
PROMISED TO HIM FOR JORDAN AIR DEFENSE.

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3. PRESENTED INSTRUCTIONS NEARLY VERBATIM AND PUT EMPHASIS ON

KING'S AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT PACKAGE WE PROPOSED. KING SEEMED PLEASED ABOUT PACKAGE AND DID NOT ARGUE DROPPING DEOPT AND OTHER ITEMS.

4. HIS REACTION WAS TO TELL ME THAT HE WANTED TO SEE WHAT TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA PRODUCED BEFORE GIVING US A GREEN LIGHT ON THE PACKAGE I HAD SET OUT.

5. HE SAID PURPOSE OF TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA WAS TO TRY TO CLEAR UP PROBLEMS PERSONALLY AND DIRECTLY WITH SAUDI LEADERS.

6. KING SAID HE ALSO INTENDS TO BE IN TOUCH WITH OTHER ARABS, AND FROM CONTEXT HIS STATEMENTS I PRESUME THIS STILL INCLUDES LIBYANS WHO HAVE RECENTLY BEEN MOOTED AS POSSIBLE FINANCERS OF A SOVIET PACKAGE.

7. KING DID NOT PRESS FOR DETAILS ABOUT WHAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO IN TERMS OF A RESTRUCTURED PACKAGE OR ABOUT VARIOUS LEVELS OF FINANCE. I GAVE HIM TOTALS FOR PACKAGE ONLY AT THIS POINT (\$510-543M).

8. KING ALSO SEEMED PLEASED WITH GENERAL NOTIONS ON DELIVERY SCHEDULE, TRAINING, AND POSSIBLE EARLY ARRIVAL OF FIRST GROUP OF VULCANS.
PICKERING

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